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Quick Strokes

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Barbara Blackburn demonstrates portability of Dvorak skill

"There's a Guinness World Records holder in our midst," says a front-page box in Northwest Newsworthy for February 9, 1979. The record holder is Barbara Blackburn, and the midst she is in is that of GTNW, General Telephone Northwest, headquartered in Everett, Washington.

The Blackburn family has moved from Lee's Summit, Missouri, to the small city north of Seattle - Mrs. Blackburn and three of her children, Sonya, James, and Fredda. Her eldest, Clay, is in Lee's Summit.

Armed with with her championship skill at a Dvorak variant keyboard and with her own typewriter, she went to work at once at GTNW, on a temporary typing job. The noise from a keyboard under expert hands is distinctive, and Barbara's drew a good deal of attention.

The result, thus far, has been steady work for her and 48 column inches in the GTNW internal house organ. The headlines are "Fast fingers, better keyboard result in Guinness record rate" and "Dvorak keyboard streamlined for efficiency."

The art is a portrait photo of the champion at her keyboard and a diagram showing the classic Dvorak arrangement.

GTNW provides the telephone service for Alaska, Northern Washington, and parts of Idaho, Oregon, and California.

Mrs. Blackburn's job title now is administrative assistant - disbursements.

The Blackburn and Dvorak stories are on page 6 of the cited Newsworthy.

Dvorak variant arrangements for typewriter keyboards are available without extra charge

Waldo T. Boyd, distinguished author and longtime Dvorak user-operator, reports, from Geyserville, California, that he has ordered an IBM Selectric II typewriter and was happy to learn that the price is the same as for one with the old, qwerty arrangement with the other features the same.

The delivery time is sixteen weeks after the order. The variants that they offer on these terms are the 043 Modified Dvorak and the 151 American Simplified. These are not identical to other proprietary standard variants with similar names.

Some models of other makes can also be had at nothing over the price of qwerty, if you go to the right dealer. See the Belmont Adams ad in Quick Strokes or call Phil Davis at 916-446-3377. He can refer you to dealers in several cities who have SCM office models or portables with a Dvorak arrangement of the characters on the keyboard in stock for immediate local delivery or quick delivery by auto freight, and some at prices that may even be below what you can get a qwerty machine for.

A one-handed operator on a keyboard for one-handers - Nathan Stover on Dvorak right o-h

Do you know someone who lacks the full use of one or the other hand? A handicap of that kind need not be a barrier to typing.

Drop a card to Nathan Stover, 80 Walnut Ave., Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119, and give him your telephone number. He will not only testify, from his own first-hand experience, to the value of the Dvorak right one-hand arrangement

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ASK portables for immediate shipment
B. W. Adams, 4 Park Ave., RD 1,
Scarborough, ME 04074

Stover in Roxbury (continued)

but will help to choose the model and will put the order through.

Mr. Stover's injury was suffered in a fire. The damaged hand is his left - and Nate is naturally left handed.

What does a convalescent burn patient do? He goes to school. Stover borrowed an SCM Dvorak right one-hand-keyboard typewriter, practiced with his one good hand, and wrote good themes. The Quick Strokes editor has read them.

Stover is now an application specialist for Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., of West Sacramento, California. He also handles the Dvorak two-hand and Dvorak left one-hand arrangements.

Three-operator application revving up in Spokane

Of the five persons in the Johnston family (telephone 509-838-1862) three, S. A. Johnston and daughters Lynne and Cathie, have been working out on their new SCM Coronamatic 8000 typewriter with Dvorak variant keyboard.

Their Tandy TRS-80 computer was not yet, at the time we write, programmed for Dvorak input. Seeing that Mr. Johnston is corresponding secretary of the Spokane TRS-80 Users' Group, Quick Strokes supposes that it soon will be so programmed.

Johnston is also an application specialist for Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., that is, a vendor of SCM typewriters with Dvorak variant keyboard. Call between 7 and 9 p.m., please.

Dvorak International Federation is no misnomer

Quick Strokes is jealous! The first issue of the quarterly newsletter from the Dvorak International Federation, bearing the nameplate DIF, is out and it is mighty fine.

Enquiries from five foreign countries and from many parts of the United States have come in.

A report by Thurman J. Clark, assistant director, Oregon Public Employees' Retirement System, tends to confirm what Quick Strokes has always suspected, namely, that production paces on the Dvorak arrangement are significantly



Barbara Blackburn, world's fastest

closer to the racing paces recorded by the same operators, than is the case on the traditional, q, w, e, r, t, y keyboard.

From the private sector, DIF prints a report under by line of Lynette Brown and Helen Baldwin, both of Employee Benefits Insurance Companies. With significant details, they report, "Since the operators in word processing have been using the Dvorak keyboard on a full-time basis, the production is on a steady increase."

Address both the federation and its organ at P. O. Box 13113, Salem Oregon 97309.

Your personal computer - is it qwerty only? Probably not

In a working paper contributed by L. G. Schear, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, and Claude A. R. Kagan, of Pennington, New Jersey, to the DSK working group of American National Standards Committee X4 we find a quote from an instruction manual for one of the small computers which are so widely sold for "recreational" application.

The manual notes that the qwerty arrangement for typewriter and computer
(See back page)

We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Zu der Zeit des Dreißigjährigen Krieges besaß ein Schweizer Protestant namens Zingli eine große Gerberei mit einer Lederhandlung in der freien Reichsstadt Augsburg am Lech. Er war mit einer Augsburgerin verheiratet und hatte ein Kind von ihr. Als die Katholischen auf die Stadt zu marschierten, rieten ihm seine Freunde

L'abîme infranchissable que certains regards voient creusé entre l'âme occidentale et l'âme orientale n'est peut-être qu'un effet de mirage. Peut-être n'est-il que la représentation conventionnelle d'un lieu commun sans base solide, un jour perfidement travesti en aperçu piquant, dont on ne peut même pas invoquer la qualité de

Above are five lines of English, five of German, and five of French, with the sharp s represented by § and with the left-hand strokes underscored, as if all three samples had been written on Dvorak variant keyboards with the unlauted a and the other unlauted vowels located on the left for German, with the accented vowels on the left for French, and with sharp s and cedilla c on the right.

A common keyboard arrangement for French and Italian, probably on no more than forty-six keys, seems feasible, with the same locations for the letters of the alphabet and the period and comma as in all close variants of Dvorak for English.

A variant to accommodate both Dutch, with its capital and lower-case ij writ-

ten each at one stroke, and English could appear on forty-four keys.

A 46-key board would serve for variants for some other languages.

The Wordshop, Chicago, converts a CPT Model 8000 processing unit

With Denise Griffin, an experienced Dvorak-skilled operator, at the keyboard, and an experimental program disk in place, The Wordshop has proved to the management's satisfaction, that the conversion method works.

Equipped with a CPT Model 8000 word-processing unit, The Wordshop, 1529 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, offers its services to the public. The proprietor is Michael Schmitt.

Personal computers (continued)

keyboards is "current but inefficient" and that the Dvorak layout is easier to learn and is considerably more efficient to operate.

~~Unlike the standards committees and subcommittees, Quick Strokes can mention brand names without a qualm. The source of the booklet is Tandy Computers, Box 1052, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.~~

~~The method for converting their TRS-80 is simple. "SAM76" may be sufficient to identify the bulletin.~~

~~Competing computers have their own methods, none very complicated.~~

Adachi in Juneau

Daniel Adachi, who for several years served as an application specialist for Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc., from his residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has moved to 421 Tenth St., Juneau, Alaska 99801. He expects to stay there at least through the summer of 1979.

Adachi uses an IBM typewriter which he has converted to the Camwil variant of the Dvorak arrangement by means of a Dvorak Selectric element. He can supply this element and also SCM office and portable typewriters.

The element comes in two faces, an elite which is equivalent to IBM Artisan and a pica equivalent to Courier. The price is \$85 plus any applicable local tax, and delivery takes about two weeks.

Sure can't hurt

Editor, Quick Strokes:

I was interested to hear that the Dvorak system is being actively promoted and that it has gained acceptance in our neighboring state of Oregon. Hope our article does some good for the cause.

Dick Welch,

Information manager

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